



Local Plan Regulation 19 Representation
Planning Policy Team
Epping Forest District Council
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Monday 22nd January 2018`

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT REGULATION 19 SUBMISSION LOCAL PLAN –
SITE LOU.R5 - JESSEL GREEN**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for inviting comment on the above document.

Essex Playing Fields Association (EPFA) is quite appalled that the council are even considering developing on such a prestigious site as Jessel Green (Lou.R5).

The EPFA has visited the site many times and has always found it to be extremely well used and very well maintained.

The groundsmen obviously work very hard to care for the ground and you can tell it is a precious community asset, as there never appears to be any litter or dog excrement anywhere.

As the director of the EPFA, I am constantly bombarded with documents that state we need to get our children more active and playing more sport (whether club/league sport or playing football with mum and dad), adults need to take more physical activity and communities need to integrate more and yet here we are, looking at the closure of a site which is used by hundreds of people every week, young and old, diverse in culture and is the life and soul of the community.

This site (LOU.R5) ticks so many boxes and yet those in authority see fit to possibly take it away and use it for development. Quite frankly, it's a disgrace.

Six years ago, the country was in celebration of London 2012 with promises flying around left, right and centre advising us that sport and physical activity would be a priority, encouraging those in sport and exercise to continue or those who weren't to try something new, make new friends and get fit. How can we have sport, or indeed have somewhere for our children to run around, if there aren't any playing fields to use?

“Let's get the kids off the streets”, something else I hear continually from working with local authorities and police. Playing fields are a brilliant way of doing just that and yet hundreds of local children are about to lose their amazing green space. Is that fair?

Sport and play teaches children so many important values, including to respect the area where they play, yet the council clearly has no respect for the area if they are looking to churn it up for housing.

Once these sites are lost, they are lost forever.

The Essex Playing Fields Association trusts that you will give this matter your fullest consideration and look to remove site LOU.R5 (Jessel Green) from the local plan immediately, and recommend EFDC issue 'Local Green Space' designation to ensure its long-term protection.

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Smith

Director, Essex Playing Fields Association